GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2728
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Mining in Forest Areas
Bohara Shri Ramcharan

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain areas in the country, particularly some districts in Rajasthan, have been included under forest reserve areas although mining activities were being carried out in them earlier and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
(b) whether stopping of production in mines situated in the said areas has given rise to unemployment and stalled the developmental works in such areas; and
(c) if so, whether the Government has raised the matter with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (c): The power to reserve forests, and issue of notification of forests as Reserved Forest is vested with the State Government, including the State of Rajasthan, as per the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Government of Rajasthan has not reported to Ministry of Mines on stoppage of mines in the forest area and consequent impact in the form of unemployment and development works. As per the provisions contained in Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, use of forest land (protected/reserved forests) for non-forestry purposes such as mining require prior approval of the Central Government.